



# ***FACT SHEET***

## **HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM**

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Washington State Military Department

Emergency Management Division

Camp Murray, WA 98430

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As a result of a presidential declaration of a major disaster, the state of Washington will be administering and helping to fund a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. This program is authorized by Section 404 of Public Law 93-288, as amended, the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. It is one part of the package of federal disaster assistance made available to eligible applicants in declared counties, and is ***separate from the Public Assistance repair and restoration program.***

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### **PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM:**

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is a program to fund projects that will reduce the effects of hazards and/or vulnerability to future disaster damage. Unlike the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) more familiar public agency disaster assistance program that helps pay for the permanent repair and restoration of existing facilities, the HMGP goes beyond simply fixing the damage. The HMGP will, within the limits of state and federal guidelines, help to fund a wide range of new projects that reduce hazard vulnerability and the potential of damage.

### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:**

State Government  
Local Governments

Registered Nonprofit Organizations with Like-  
Government services and facilities

Special Districts  
Indian Tribes

*(Applicants must be jurisdictions that are participating and in good standing in the National Flood Insurance Program [NFIP] or located in a community that is.)*

### **FUNDING CONSTRAINTS:**

The grants will be made available to eligible applicants on a **competitive** basis and will be on the following cost share: 75% - Federal 25% - Non-federal (applicant and state split). The total amount for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is limited. According to the law, FEMA may contribute no more than fifteen percent of the amount that it will spend under the disaster assistance programs. In order to select projects for funding, all proposals will be evaluated against state and federal program criteria. Some of the general criteria are listed below.

### **GRANT PROCESS:**

- State conducts applicant briefings in impacted communities following disaster declaration.
- "Letters of Intent" (LOI) to participate in the program are submitted by eligible applicants.
- Following review of LOI's, HMGP applications are mailed to eligible applicants. Actual deadlines for return of applications to the state vary by disaster.
- Applications are reviewed for eligibility and site visits conducted as required. Applications are then evaluated and scored by a work group of state and local representatives. Local representatives are from outside the declared disaster area(s).
- Projects are then recommended to FEMA for approval and funding based upon score and available funds.
- Upon notification of approval and funding, grant agreement between the state and applicant is developed.

## **TYPES OF PROJECTS THAT CAN BE FUNDED:**

Following are examples of projects the HMGP can be used to fund:

- Structural hazard control, such as debris basins and retention ponds;
- Retrofitting, such as flood proofing, elevating, and seismic retrofitting to protect structures from future damage;
- Acquisition and relocation of structures from flood hazard-prone areas;
- Construction activities that will result in protection from hazards; and
- Development of local hazard reduction plans.

Generally the project should:

- Substantially reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering from a major disaster;
- Have a beneficial impact in the designated disaster area;
- Conform with federal floodplain, wetland, and environmental regulations;
- Solve a problem, or part of a problem when there is assurance that the whole project will be completed;
- Be cost-effective in that it addresses a problem that is repetitive or that poses a significant risk if left unsolved;
- Contribute substantially to the problem's long term solution;
- Provide cost-effective protection over the expected project life;
- Have manageable future maintenance requirements;
- Be determined to be the most practical, effective, and environmentally sound alternative among the possible options;
- Conform to the goals of the Growth Management Act; and
- Have the documented support of the local community.

Some of the reasons that projects / applications have been determined to be ineligible:

- Project is for operation and maintenance versus disaster related mitigation.
- Project is the responsibility of another federal agency (i.e. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Natural Resources Conservation Service for levees, dikes and berms);
- Project merely identifies or analyzes the hazard (mapping, studies, plans, etc.);
- Project is the result of deferred maintenance versus natural hazard related;
- Project application fails to meet requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for public involvement in the development of the project;
- Project has an inadequate cost/benefit ratio; and
- When HMGP Project is part of a larger effort, no assurance is made that the whole project will be completed.

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**For further information, write us at the above address or call Martin Best, State Hazard Mitigation Officer at (253) 512-7073**